

## OBITUARIES OF MEMBERS OF THE OHIO ACADEMY OF SCIENCE: REPORT OF THE NECROLOGY COMMITTEE, 1989

The Necrology Committee of the Ohio Academy of Science consists of the following members: Emanuel D. Rudolph, Chair, The Ohio State University; Richard H. Mahard, Denison University; W. Louis Phillips, Certified Genealogist, Logan; and Dr. Ronald L. Stuckey, The Ohio State University. The author is identified at the end of each obituary.

### Jane Cynthia (McLaughlin) Decker (1935-1988)

Dr. Jane Cynthia (McLaughlin) Decker (1935-1988), distinguished scholar, superb educator, powerful role model, and gentle friend, was Professor of Botany, Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio. Her outstanding career was varied with research and publication on the internal structure of tropical plants, teaching of general and advanced botany courses, and active membership in many professional scientific societies, including the presidency of the Ohio Academy of Science. She held the University's Allen Trimble Chair in Botany, and at the Spring 1988 Commencement Ceremonies Dr. Decker was presented the University's highest award for outstanding teaching.

Born 22 June 1935, in Cleveland, Ohio, to Jeanne and the late Harold N. McLaughlin of Shaker Heights, Ohio, Jane was educated in the local schools and graduated from Shaker Heights High School in 1953. Her advanced degrees were A.B. in 1957 from Mount Holyoke College, and the M.S. in 1958 and Ph.D. in 1961 from Yale University, where she studied plant anatomy and systematics with world renowned professors. While in graduate school she married botany student, Henry F. Decker.

During the first five years of Jane's professional teaching career, she served as instructor in botany at Bridgewater State College, Massachusetts, 1960-1961; Southern Connecticut State College, 1961-1962; The Ohio State University, 1962-1965, and promoted to Assistant Professor of Botany, 1966-1968. Her association with Ohio Wesleyan University began as a Visiting Assistant Professor, 1965-1966, Visiting Associate Professor, 1968-1973, followed by a regularly appointed full-time Assistant Professor in 1973, filling the position left vacant by her husband, who had held the position since coming to Delaware, Ohio, in 1962. Jane Decker served the University as an Assistant Professor, 1973-1978; Associate Professor, 1978-1982; and Professor from 1982 until her death. In 1983, she was named to the Allen Trimble Chair in Botany. To the President of the University, Jane Decker presented convincing reasons for maintaining botanical studies as a Department separate from Zoology. She also was an advocate for the University's Kraus and Bohannon Nature Preserves.

Jane Decker was the recipient of Ohio Wesleyan's highest award for outstanding teaching, the Bishop Herbert Welch Meritorious Teaching Award, presented to her at the Spring 1988 Commencement Program. As quoted from the University's Memorial Resolution, Jane as a teacher was "highly respected and admired by the students whose lives she touched. She steadfastly supported the study of botany and presented her students an education of the highest scientific integrity and scholarship. She was always smiling, patient and helpful. She served as a very positive role model and source of constant encouragement and inspiration for young women entering professional careers in science."

"Jane's students will always remember her trudging through fields, woods, and swamps, regardless of weather, speaking eloquently about the identity and relationships of plants. One student recently commented that Jane Decker was the only person he ever knew who could unerringly identify roadside ferns driving in excess of 70 miles per hour. Many students have expressed how they hoped to be able to live up to the high standards Jane set for herself and for them, and that it was nearly impossible to imagine Biological Sciences without her."

As a researcher in graduate school and during her early years of teaching, Dr. Decker published on the wood anatomy and phylogeny of the tropical plant families, Batidaceae and Ochnaceae. She became interested in the classification of plants using biochemical techniques and mastered tissue culture methods to investigate developmental processes in plants and chromosome banding to access the nature of genetic diseases.

Dr. Decker was especially active in the Ohio Academy of Science, where she served as membership Chairperson, (1973-1974) and vice-president (1974-1975) of the Plant Sciences Section, a member of the Executive Committee (1975-1988), editor for the Plant Sciences of the *Ohio Journal of Science* (1975-1977), Secretary (1977-1982), and President (1983-1984), the third woman to perform in this capacity since the founding of the Academy in 1891. She strongly supported and encouraged Junior Science Fair activities, and was Assistant Director of the Academy's State Science Day since 1978 from when its Annual Meetings were held at Ohio Wesleyan University. As a promotor of the Academy's "Women in Science" programs, Dr. Decker was appointed Chairperson for the Committee that planned the special events for the Academy's 1982 meeting in Columbus. The theme was "Women in Science", and the Committee organized for the presentation of technical papers, seminars to explore issues of women in science, and workshops for high school students. Her presidential address, *Chromosome Technology for the 80's*, considered the latest techniques in chromosome banding, a method that permits distinguishing every human chromosome from every other human chromosome. Through these techniques, it has become possible . . . "to identify genes that apparently cause some forms of cancer."

With her husband, Jane recently completed a book, *Lawn Care: A handbook for Professionals* (1988). This project resulted from research at their farm near Ostrander, in Delaware County, which they purchased nearly 20 years ago. Upon leaving the University in 1973, Dr. Henry Decker established Buckeye Bluegrass Farms, Inc., where he conducts experimental research on various turf grasses.

Jane Decker held memberships in the Botanical Society of America, American Association of Plant Taxonomists, American Fern Society, American Institute of Biological Sciences, American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Honorary Scientific Research Society, Sigma Xi. She worked as taxonomist doing cataloging for the International Plant Index (1962), and participated as a visiting fellow in the Department of Biology, Yale University (1978).

As an active member of the First Presbyterian Church in Delaware, she served as President of the Board of Trustees, the organization which regulated the financial responsibilities and cared for the physical plant.

Jane Decker died of cancer 5 November 1988. She is survived by her husband, Henry F., and three children, Susan J. and twins Emily A. and Douglas M., mother Jeanne, and brother Robert J. of Weston, Massachusetts. A funeral service was held at the First Presbyterian Church, followed by a private burial service in rural Millcreek Cemetery. As a memorial to her life, which was very much involved with plants, the University established the Jane M. Decker Arboretum on the campus.

RONALD L. STUCKEY

### David P. Dingley (1919-1988)

Dr. David P. Dingley, retired associate professor of chemistry at Fredonia State University College of New York, died 18 August 1988 at the Buffalo General Hospital at age 69.

Born 11 March 1919 at Youngstown, Ohio, he was a son of Fred and Florence (Moran) Dingley. A graduate of Ursuline High School in Youngstown, he received his B.Sc. degree (1940) in chemistry from John Carroll University, his M.Sc. degree (1942) from Marquette University and his Ph.D. degree (1962) in physical chemistry from the Ohio State University.

He began his employment with Fredonia State University College in 1962, and during his time there prepared the chemistry curriculum, course descriptions and orders for the new Chemistry Department. He later directed the research for the first master's degree program in chem-

istry. He retired 1 July 1988. During his 52 years in chemistry, he also spent time at Westinghouse Electric, Owens Corning Fiberglass and the Ohio State University Research Foundation. He taught mathematics in the Johnstown and Newark, Ohio, public schools and was a chemistry instructor at Ohio Wesleyan University.

Dr. Dingley became a member of the Ohio Academy of Science (chemistry section) in 1958, and a fellow in 1967. He also belonged to the American Chemical Society, was a charter member of Sigma Xi at Fredonia and served as the first president of the local chapter of United University Professionals. He also served as chapter president of the State University Federated Teachers and was a past chapter chairman of the American Association of University Professors.

Dr. Dingley was a participant in the New York Educational Computer Consortium, the CORD consortium, the Chautauqua County Advisory Board for vocational education and was a member of the science advisory committee for Congressman Stan Lundline.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Ellen Ann (Owen) Dingley of Fredonia whom he married on 14 October 1944 in Newark, Ohio, four sons, David of Holbrook, Massachusetts, Richard of Sheridan New York, Frederick of Louisville, Kentucky, and Joseph of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, four daughters, Mrs. Lewis (Ann) Rodie of San Francisco, California, Ms. Kathryn Dingley of Fredonia, Ms. Mary Dingley of Brooklyn, New York, and Mrs. Todd (Cecilia) Dingley-Wade of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and seven grandchildren.

W. LOUIS PHILLIPS, C.G.

### Howard S. Kenny (1909-1989)

Mr. Howard S. Kenny, retired United States Weather Bureau Meteorologist-in-Charge at the Port Columbus International Airport, died 19 February 1989 at Riverside Methodist Hospital in Columbus at the age of 79.

Born 18 November 1909 at Schaffer, Michigan, he was a son of James and Clara (Eppel) Kenny. Mr. Kenny gave 45 years of service to the Weather Bureau, serving twenty years (1951-1971) at Port Columbus. He enjoyed a life-long interest in science and nature.

Mr. Kenny became a member of the Ohio Academy of Science (physics & astronomy section) in 1966. He also belonged to the Wheaton Club, Knights of Columbus, Assumption Council Catholic Mens Luncheon Club and attended Immaculate Conception Church.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Marie (Lucia) Kenny of Columbus, three daughters, Mrs. Allen (Jane) Hopper and Mrs. Garry (Kathleen) Rupp of Worthington, and Mrs. Donald (Karen) Carlsen of Naperville, Illinois, five sisters and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Burial was in Resurrection Cemetery in Delaware County, Ohio, with donations directed to Hospice at Riverside Hospital and Central Ohio Lung Association.

W. LOUIS PHILLIPS, C.G.

### Robyn Marie Klusch (1970-1988)

Robyn Marie Klusch, an aspiring Senior at Alliance High School in Lisbon, who had planned to attend Bowling Green State University, died 24 November 1988 in the Salem Community Hospital at the age of 18 as the result of injuries received in an automobile accident. A member of the Junior Academy Section of the Ohio Academy of Science, Robyn's accomplishments in high school were impressive and we regret her untimely death.

Born 7 July 1970 in Newark, Ohio, she was a daughter of Gerald and Leah (Gahr) Klusch. While attending Alliance High School, she was a member of the Key Club, Science Alliance Science Team, Student Senate, cross-country team and served as an assistant to the Athletic Director for three years. An active Columbiana County 4-H member, Robyn also found time to participate in gymnastics and danced with the Ballet Metropolitan of Columbus.

For the 1984-1988 school years, Robyn participated in science fairs at her school, district and state levels consistently receiving superior ratings for her efforts along with other awards. Some of her projects were: "Analysis of Bacterial Growth on Objects in the School Environment," "Imprinting of Ducklings to the Human Voice and an Object," "Danger Hair Spray, an Analysis of the Changes in Lung Tissue After Hair Spray Inhalation," "Analysis of the Volatile Chemicals Transmitted into the Blood After the Inhalation of Hair Spray," and "Analysis of the Pathology of Lung, Liver, Spleen, Tracheal, and Fat Tissue After Systemic Exposure of Hair Spray Over a Variety of Time Periods."

During her Junior and Senior years Robyn presented talks to middle school and high school classes to encourage students to enter science projects in competition. She also participated in the Women in Science Program in Northeast Ohio, sponsored by the Youngstown State University, in an effort to encourage middle school female students to study science and consider careers in science.

Robyn's accomplishments as a high school student should serve as an encouragement to other students. To honor her, The Robyn Klusch School Award of Achievement has been established at the Alliance High School and at the District 13 Science Fair. She is survived by her parents and one brother, Ryan. Funeral services were held in the First Presbyterian Church of Lisbon of which she was a member. Burial was in Highland Memorial Park in Beloit, Ohio. The family asked that contributions be made to the scholarship fund.

W. LOUIS PHILLIPS, C.G.

### John Thurlow McGinnis (1934-1989)

John McGinnis, an ecologist associated since 1970 until his recent retirement with the Battelle Columbus Laboratories, died on March 3, 1989 at age 54. He was born on July 9, 1934 in Mattoon, Illinois, the son of T. J. and Della Brown McGinnis. His bachelor of science degree was awarded by Eastern Illinois University in 1956 with a major in botany. Graduate studies were made at the University of Tennessee, M.S. 1958, and Emory University, Ph.D. 1964, with specialization in ecology. Postdoctoral research was pursued as Assistant Statistician at the University of Georgia's Institute of Experimental Statistics from 1964 to 1966, and as Senior Member at that University's Institute of Ecology from 1964 to 1969. As Assistant Professor of Botany, he taught at the University of Georgia from 1967 to 1969. In 1970 he joined the Battelle Columbus Laboratories as its Senior Ecologist and Associate Chief of its Ecology and Environmental Systems Division. He became Manager of Battelle's Ecology and Ecosystems Analysis Section in 1972, and Research Leader of its Bioenvironmental Sciences Section in 1976. He served as Adjunct Assistant Professor of Botany at the Ohio State University from 1982.

Much of John McGinnis' work at Battelle had to do with radioecology, particularly with siting criteria for nuclear power plants which criteria he helped the Atomic Energy Commission set. He had broad experience in environmental assessment in Ohio, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, Alaska, and Panama. His early publications treat various ecological subjects, while his later ones deal with environmental impacts and safety connected with use of nuclear energy.

John McGinnis was a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (1968), and a member of the Sigma Xi honorary society (1964). He was very active in the Loyal Order of Moose, from which he held its highest honors, as well as being an active Masonic member. He suffered a massive coronary on January 29th from which he never recovered. He was always friendly and helpful to colleagues and students. John was a scientist who managed major projects for Battelle with sincere environmental concern. He is survived by his wife, Anita, two daughters, and four sons.

EMANUEL D. RUDOLPH

### Norman Franklin Reiter (1929-1989)

Mr. Norman Franklin Reiter, a senior scientist at Goodyear Atomic Corporation and an employee of Martin Marietta, died 2 February 1989 at the Pike County Hospital at Waverly, Ohio, at the age of 59.

Born 26 August 1929 at Sciotoville, Ohio, he was a son of Joseph F. and Martha (Groth) Reiter. A graduate of Wheelersburg High School (1947), he graduated from Ohio University in 1951. After serving in the Korean War as a First Lieutenant in the United States Air Force, he joined Goodyear in 1953.

Mr. Reiter also owned and managed Reiter Fixit Services, Inc. for 18 years. He was involved with the Boy Scouts of America for 50 years, attaining the rank of Eagle Scout and also serving as a scoutmaster. He joined the Ohio Academy of Science (chemistry section) in 1981 and was an outstanding judge at the county, district and state science fairs. He was a member of the American Chemical Society, Wheelersburg United Methodist Church, James Dickey Post 23 of the American Legion and United Commercial Travelers.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Carol (Dheel) Reiter of Wheelersburg, a son, Timothy F. Reiter of Chillicothe, three daughters, Mrs. Ronald (Terri) Gebhardt of Richland, Georgia, Mrs. Robert (Tamera) Easterday of Glendale, California, and Mrs. Pete (Patricia) Shaffer of Londonderry, Ohio, and two grandchildren. Burial was at Memorial Burial Park at Wheelersburg where military graveside rites were provided by the American Legion.

W. LOUIS PHILLIPS, C.G.

### Alexander Munro Smith (1910-1988)

Alexander Munro Smith, former chairman and president of the Davey Tree Expert Company and vice-president of Lamson and Sessions Company, died 17 May 1988 at the Longmeadow Care Center in Ravenna, Ohio, at the age of 77. A man of discerning judgment with an abiding concern for the welfare of others, Mr. Smith was soft-spoken and a good listener. He combined a career as one of Kent's leading business executives with civic leadership in many areas.

Born 28 October 1910 in Cleveland, Mr. Smith was the son of Roy H. and Jessie (Munro) Smith. His father, also a prominent industrial and Kent community leader, founded the Falls Rivet Company, predecessor of the Lamson and Sessions Company.

Educated in the Kent schools, Mr. Smith attended Cleveland University and Yale University, receiving a B.Sc. degree (1932) from the latter. He received his M.Sc. degree (1939) in engineering from Case Institute of Technology at Cleveland, and also attended Harvard Business School.

Mr. Smith's first industrial assignment was as a draftsman with the Kent Machine Company (1932). He then joined Lamson and Sessions as an engineer. After assignments in Illinois and Cleveland, his career was interrupted by World War II. He served in the U.S. Navy on the cruiser "Philadelphia" which was involved in invasions of North Africa, Sicily, Salerno, Anzio and southern France. When honorably discharged from duty in 1945, he held the rank of Commander.

Following the war, Mr. Smith became operations manager and then vice-president of manufacturing for all of Lamson and Sessions' plants, also becoming a member of their board of directors. He served simultaneously on the board of directors of the Davey Tree Expert Company, founded in 1909 by John Davey, his wife's grandfather. Mr. Smith was elected chairman of the Davey Tree Expert Company in 1960, and the next year he became their interim president. He served three tenures as president (1961-1977), while continuing as a director and chairman. Following an employee purchase of the company in 1979, he continued as chairman, retiring in 1982 after 37 years of service. He also retired from Lamson and Sessions in 1982 after 34 years of service with that company.

Many community endeavors in Portage County benefited from Mr. Smith's leadership capabilities. He served as a member of the Kent Board of Education (1949-1961), was a member of the Robinson Memorial Hospital board of trustees, and served on the board of directors of Huntington National Bank for many years. In 1974, he was chairman of the Portage County United Way campaign which raised record contributions.

A member of the Ohio Academy of Science's Physics & Astronomy Section, Mr. Smith joined the Academy in 1968, and became Emeritus in 1981. Professional associations included the American Society for Metals, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and A.A.A.S. He was a registered professional engineer in Ohio.

Mr. Smith was a member of the United Church of Christ in Kent, which he served as a moderator, deacon and trustee. He also belonged to the Kent Rotary Club, Twin Lakes Country Club, the Wranglers Club, Portage Post of the American Legion, the Lamson and Sessions Oldtimers Club, and a former member of the Union Club in Cleveland. He also served variously as a scoutmaster, trustee of the Cleveland Automobile Club, and was active for many years in the Kent Area Chamber of Commerce.

He married Evangeline Davey in the Governor's Mansion in Columbus on 5 October 1935, while her father, Martin L. Davey, was Governor of Ohio. In addition to his wife, Mr. Smith is survived by three daughters: Mrs. Donald (Berenice) Hardy of London, England, Mrs. William (Diantha) Harris of Lake Forest, Illinois, and Mrs. Darrel (Leticia) Manley of Rogue River, Oregon. Funeral services were held at the United Church of Christ in Kent with memorials directed to this church. Burial was at Standing Rock Cemetery in Kent.

W. LOUIS PHILLIPS, C.G.

### Donald Charles Strock (1904-1989)

Donald Charles Strock, retired chief naturalist for the Lake County, Ohio, Metropolitan Park District, died 27 February 1989 at Fisherman's Hospital on Marathon Key, Florida, at the age of 84. A modest, gentle, unassuming, mild-tempered man, everyone was Don's friend, especially youngsters. He always tried to instill the love of nature in their minds.

Born 10 June 1904 at Oakfield, Ohio, he was a son of Charles W. and Edith M. (Barbe) Strock. Upon graduating from Alliance High School, he was employed by the Westinghouse Corporation in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and at Rochester, New York, serving as a foreman of the temperature room. After experiencing chemical burns on his lungs, he became a self-employed carpenter. He met and married Luana Fredebaugh of Mentor and they moved to Grand River, Ohio.

The Morton Salt Company was mining on the shore of Lake Erie and Don in his spare time would watch the operation, becoming familiar with those in charge. Upon learning they were concerned about cracked bedrock several hundred feet below, he told them of an earthquake that had occurred several years before, and when they learned of his interest and knowledge of the geology of northeast Ohio they hired him as a carpenters' superintendent, also drawing upon his geological expertise.

When the Lake County Metropolitan Parks were created, Don and Luana served as volunteers on the Citizen Advisory Council (1958). Over the years he worked at almost every position available at the parks to include acting director. Don said in 1980 that his love for nature stemmed from summers spent on his grandfather's farm in Trumbull County. His final position at the parks was one of choice, chief naturalist for the system which he held for eleven of his 21 years with them. He retired in 1980 and moved to Florida in 1987.

After Don's retirement, a library at the visitor's center in Kirtland was named "The Don Strock Natural History Library." In the Lake Shore Reservation at North Perry, the Strock Memorial Sundial can be found which honors both Don and Luana. A tree in Don's memory was planted at the Holden Arboretum and the Burroughs Nature Club of Willoughby established a foundation in his name.

Don became a member of the Ohio Academy of Science (geology section) in 1950, and was chosen a Fellow in 1981, an honor which he deeply appreciated. He also belonged to the Cleveland Geological Society, the Burrough's Nature Club, the Blackbrook Audubon Society and the Association of Interpretive Naturalists. He was a former member of the Ohio National Guard, the Carpenters Local 404 and he organized civil defense and volunteer firefighting programs in Grand River Village.

Surviving are his second wife, Mrs. Ruth (Ziegler) Strock of Big Pine Key, Florida, son John Strock of Painesville, Ohio, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. His first wife, Luana, also a nature enthusiast, died in 1974, and a son, Donald Charles Strock, died in infancy. Memorial services were held in Florida on Big Pine Key and also at the Little Church in the Vale at Gates Mills, Ohio, with contributions directed to the Lake County Metropolitan Park District. Don's body was cremated in Marathon, Florida.

W. LOUIS PHILLIPS, C.G.